



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20350

SECNAVINST 5510.25A
Op-009D3
1 July 1975

SECNAV INSTRUCTION 5510.25A

Subj: Security review of Department of the Navy information;
responsibility for

Ref: (a) SECNAVINST 5720.42A
(b) OPNAVINST 5510.1E
(c) DOD Directive 5400.4 (NOTAL)
(d) DOD Directive 5230.9 (NOTAL)

1. Purpose. To set forth policy and assign responsibility for the security review of all Navy matters subject to public release.

2. Cancellation. SECNAV Instruction 5510.25 of 20 August 1969 is hereby cancelled.

3. Policy. To assure that the American people are fully informed about matters of national defense, the Department of the Navy shall conduct its activities in an open manner, consistent with the need for security. This means that unclassified information, other than that exempted by reference (a), must be readily accessible to the public and press. Because of the importance attached to this matter by the Secretary of Defense, the following principles will be followed in the conduct of security review of Navy matters subject to public release:

a. Our first concern must be the security of the United States and the safety of our Armed Forces. Therefore, information which would adversely affect the security of our country or endanger our personnel should not be disclosed.

b. The provisions of reference (a) will be supported in both letter and spirit.

c. No information will be classified solely because disclosure might result in criticism of the Department of the Navy. To avoid abuse of classification procedures, we must adhere strictly to the criteria set forth in reference (b).


d. Our obligation to provide the public accurate, timely information on major Department of the Navy programs will require, in some instances, detailed planning and coordination within the Department of the Navy and with the Department of Defense and other government agencies. The sole purpose of such planning and coordination will be to expedite the flow of information to the public.



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4. Responsibilities

- R) a. The Chief of Naval Operations for Navy matters and the Commandant of the Marine Corps for Marine Corps matters shall provide procedures consistent with references (c) and (d) for the security review of material submitted for public release and publication (including testimony before Congressional committees) originated by the Department of the Navy, its contractors, and by individual Department of the Navy personnel. The Chief of Naval Operations and the Commandant of the Marine Corps, in connection with security review actions, shall provide for the promulgation of security classification guidance, provide for coordinating security review procedures, and provide the point of contact for each service with the Director, Freedom of Information and Security Review, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs) to advise as to departmental determinations on current security classification of information. It will be incumbent upon the Navy and Marine Corps offices to work closely together, so that there is complete agreement on the proper security classification in any areas of overlap with respect to such common subject areas as aircraft, equipment, and research and development projects.
- R) b. The handling and transmission of Congressional transcripts, statements and inserts for the record will continue through the Office of Legislative Affairs and the Office of the Comptroller of the Navy; however, the primary responsibility and accountability for security review of all Congressional submission rests with the witness or originator.
- A) c. To provide adequate time to the several echelons that process transcripts--with a view towards eliminating both the possibilities of inconsistencies and inadvertent release of classified information--each transcript testimony before Congressional committees must be properly timephased through the review system. The Chief of Legislative Affairs, for authorization testimony, and the Comptroller of the Navy, for appropriations testimony, serve as the coordinators for the Navy with regard to apportioning the total time among the several echelons involved in the review process and are also responsible for monitoring each transcript through the system. The Chief of Naval Operations is requested to ensure the provisions of adequate high-level supervision to the timely processing of individual transcripts.
- A) d. The Chief of Naval Operations shall work closely with the Chief of Information to provide for the timely release of information.


J. William Middendorf II
Secretary of the Navy

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